

# Mexico Security/Cartel Trends Watcher



Project Title	Mexico Security/Cartel Trends Watcher
Project Summary	Track and summarize security trends in Mexico, including developments in Mexico's cartel underworld, using sources from government, NGOs, think tanks, and open-source media.
Country	Mexico
Agency	Department of State
DoS Office	N/A
Post	MEXICO CITY
Section	POL
Number of Interns	5

## Project Description

The Political Section's Security Unit at U.S. Embassy Mexico City is seeking self-motivated individuals to help track crime and violence trends in Mexico nationally and locally. In the last two years, Mexico has seen a spike in cartel-related violence that has returned the country to the most violent days of the Felipe Calderon administration.

We especially seek candidates who can track open-source media and government sources in Spanish to provide regular reports on trends and new developments across the country. Among the many topics that can be researched are: (1) cartel dynamics and regional variations in them; (2) levels of crime and violence as reported by media, NGOs, and the government; (3) security strategies being implemented by federal, state, and local governments in Mexico; (4) public perceptions about security conditions; (5) the link between security and elections, particularly Mexico's upcoming 2018 presidential race; (6) Mexico's transition to the accusatorial criminal justice system and public reactions to it; (7) the status of security-related legislation, including police reform and anti-money laundering efforts; and (8) counter-terrorism related initiatives and other security related issues.

Ultimately, the list of topics is endless, and depending upon how many interns are interested, we can decide how best to develop portfolios for each participant. One idea would be to cover geographical regions, another by topic/issue. We could combine both and give each intern a geographic area and a specific subject/issue to cover. We can decide that together as a team once the finalists are picked. The key is being able to identify official and unofficial sources, read them, and summarize contents quickly.

In the end, your efforts will be instrumental in enabling the Political Section to track broad trends and local

realities that might be otherwise missed. It's an excellent opportunity to have an impact from the comfort of your own home and gain invaluable experience.

**Desired Skills Interests**

**Additional Information**

Your supervisors will be former professors who gave up the comforts of academia to serve abroad. We have lots of experience providing feedback on research and writing methods and feedback will be provided, especially up front. You will not be on your own. Moreover, with demonstrated good performance, count on an excellent job recommendation!

**Language Requirements**

Language Speaking Proficiency		Reading Proficiency	Importance
Spanish	No practical proficiency	Minimum professional proficiency	Required